

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02
CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 SCA-01 /041 W
-----020359Z 031011 /13

R 020238Z JUN 77
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5114
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 6301

EO 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, SREF, CA, US, VN
SUBJECT: CANADIAN-VIETNAMESE PROBLEMS OVER IMMIGRATION

REF: (A) OTTAWA 2703, (B) HONG KONG 3665

1. CANADIAN OFFICIAL INFORMED CONGENOFF THAT FOLLOWING
EARLIER TALKS WITH SRV REPORTED IN REFTELS, AIR FRANCE
BANGKOK SENT A TELEX TO HONG KONG IN EARLY MAY STATING
THAT A GROUP OF ABOUT SIX VIETNAMESE WERE BEING PLACED
ON THE AIR FRANCE EVACUATION FLIGHT FROM SAIGON TO
PARIS WITH CANADA AS THEIR ULTIMATE DESTINATION. THE
CANADIANS IMMEDIATELY INFORMED AIR FRANCE THAT NO
GUARANTEE WOULD BE GIVEN THAT THESE PASSENGERS WOULD
BE PERMITTED INTO CANADA, AND AT THE SAME TIME SENT A
NOTE TO THE SRV EMBASSY IN PEKING REQUESTING VISAS
FOR TWO CANADIAN IMMIGRATION OFFICERS (WHO ARE
ACCREDITED TO HANOI) TO PROCEED TO VIETNAM TO
ESTABLISH PROCEDURES FOR PERMITTING PERSONS FOUND
ELIGIBLE BY THE GOC TO IMMIGRATE TO CANADA.

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2. AFTER SEVERAL WEEKS WAIT THE SRV RESPONDED,
REJECTING THE VISA APPLICATIONS WITH THE EXPLANATION
THAT THE SRV DID NOT WANT "COMPLICATED PROCEDURES"
FOR PERSONS DEPARTING VIETNAM. THE CANADIANS ARE
NOW PREPARING ANOTHER NOTE FOR DELIVERY IN PEKING
EXPLAINING THAT THEIR IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES ARE NOT
COMPLICATED AND URGING DISCUSSION OF THE PROBLEM.

3. THE CANADIANS ARE INSISTING ON MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS FOR ANYONE DEPARTING FOR CANADA BUT ARE WILLING TO HAVE VIETNAMESE MEDICAL OFFICIALS PERFORM THE EXAMINATIONS. THE CANADIANS ARE ALSO INSISTING THAT IMMIGRANTS HOLD PASSPORTS AND NOT JUST EXIT VISAS AS IS USUALLY NOW THE CASE FOR PERSONS EMIGRATING FROM VIETNAM.

4. COMMENT: UNTIL NOW SRV OFFICIALS HAVE DEALT WITH PERSONS DEPARTING IN AN EMERGENCY EVACUATION ATMOSPHERE. FLIGHTS ARRANGED BY UNHCR, ICRC, AND THE FRENCH AND HONG KONG GOVERNMENTS HAVE ALLOWED THOSE QUALIFIED PERSONS WHO WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO OBTAIN SRV EXIT VISAS TO SIMPLY LOAD ABOARD AND DEPART. RELATIVELY LITTLE ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO SUCH AREAS AS MEDICALS, TRAVEL DOCUMENTS, SECURITY CHECKS AND MEANS OF SUPPORT. THE VIETNAMESE ARE NOW BEING CONFRONTED WITH THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS OF ANOTHER NATION WHICH IS, AS YET, UNWILLING TO WAVE REGULATIONS SIMPLY TO MAKE MATTERS CONVENIENT FOR THE VIETNAMESE. HOW THE CANADIANS RESOLVE THESE PROBLEMS MAY WELL DECIDE WHAT KINDS OF PROBLEMS THE USG HAS AND WILL INCREASINGLY HAVE AS ITS 130,000 PLUS VIETNAMESE REFUGEES BECOME CITIZENS AND PETITION FOR THEIR OWN RELATIVES.
CROSS

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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